

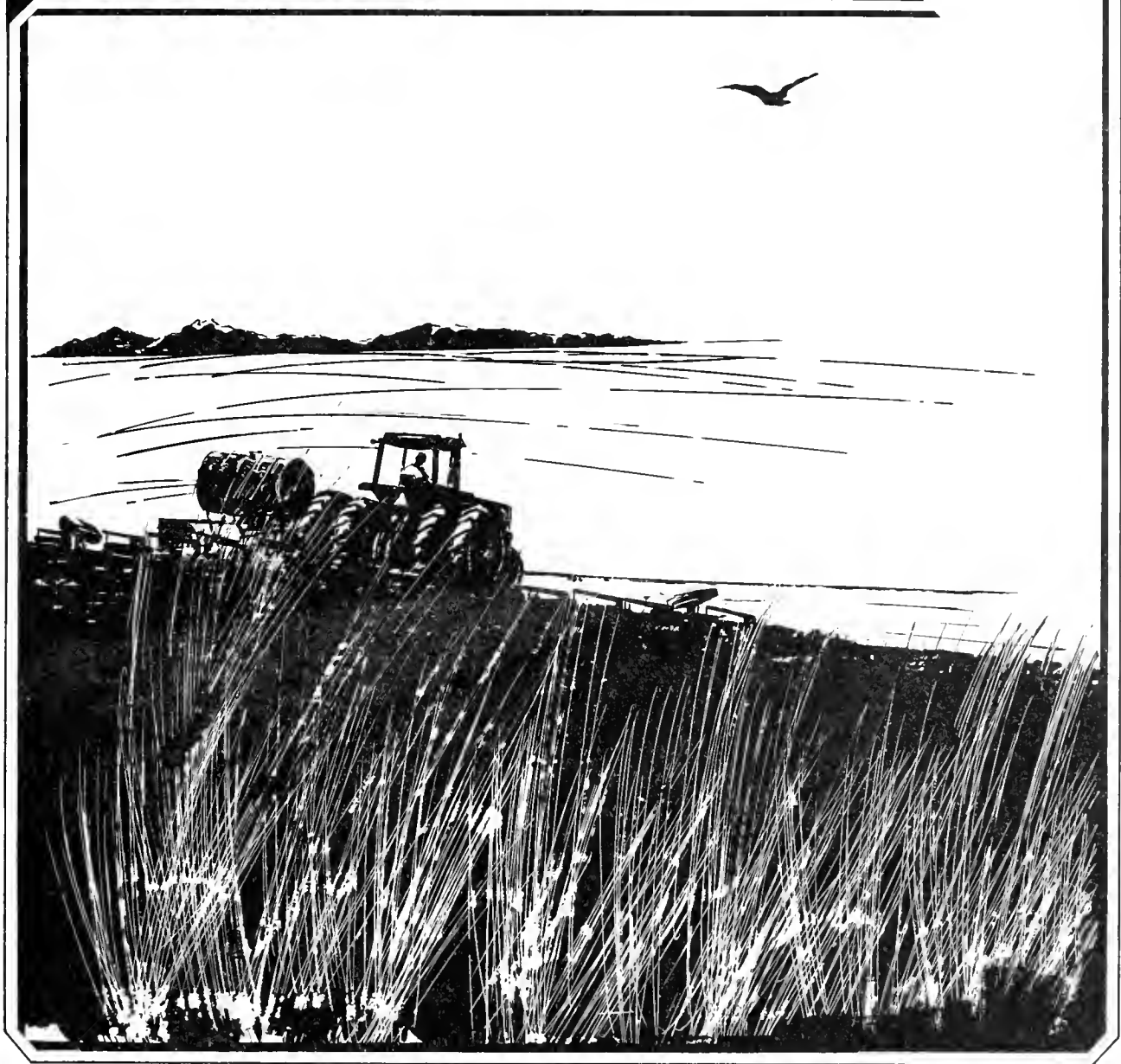
33.72  
12gmc  
986

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

MAR 17 1987

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY  
1515 E. 6th AVE.  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620

# A Guide for Montana Conservation District Supervisors



June 1986

PLEASE RETURN

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY  
S 333 72 C12gmc 1986 c.1  
A Guide for Montana conservation district



3 0864 00055573 3



State of Montana  
Office of the Governor  
Helena, Montana 59620  
406-444-3111

TED SCHWINDEN  
GOVERNOR

To all Conservation District Supervisors:

Over a half century has passed since, in the 1930s, dust storms followed widespread soil erosion and floods swept across the bare earth causing severe financial depression. In 1935, Congress enacted a national policy of soil and water conservation, emphasizing wise land use and protection of related natural resources. Two years later, legislation was passed allowing landowners to form soil and water conservation districts. To date, 2,950 conservation districts have been formed in the United States encompassing over 2.2 billion acres, some 2.7 million farms and ranches, and providing service to about 2.3 million cooperators. Montana's 59 conservation districts -- covering almost the entire state -- were organized under the Montana Conservation District Law passed by the Legislature in 1939. The districts, responsible for conservation work within their boundaries, are legal subdivisions of state government.

In the past few years, economic difficulties have dealt a severe blow to our farmers, ranchers and rural communities. Many districts have developed educational programs to inform the urban public of the progress, as well as the problems, of American food producers. In these difficult times, it is particularly important that educational programs and conservation practices for the protection and proper use of our natural resources are continued. Proper land use is essential to both a strong state economy and to the nation's security.

Conservation districts play a vital role in the enhancement and protection of our natural resources. As district supervisors, your job is to see that these objectives are accomplished through the programs undertaken by your districts. The districts' past successes are a direct result of the dedication and hard work of the governing boards. We commend your efforts and thank you for your continuing commitment to Montana's future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ted Schwinden".

TED SCHWINDEN  
Governor



The conservation district supervisors may receive assistance in fulfilling their duties from any of the following personnel, and are encouraged to enlist their aid whenever needed.

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

1520 East Sixth Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620  
(406) 444-6667

Larry Fasbender, Director  
Ray Beck, Administrator, Conservation Districts Division (CDD)  
Jack Thomas, Montana Rangeland Resource Program Coordinator,  
Resource Program Specialist, CDD  
Peter Husby, Resource Program Specialist, CDD  
Laurie Zeller, Administrative Secretary, CDD  
Scott Kaiser, Resource Program Specialist, CDD, Box 276,  
Miles City, Montana 59301 (406) 232-6359

Montana Association of Conservation Districts

Power Block, Suite 4G  
Helena, Montana 59601  
(406) 443-5711

John Teigen, President  
Bob Lane, Vice President  
Debi Brammer, Executive Vice President  
Gladys Hippe, Treasurer

Resource Conservation Advisory Council

Walt Dion, Conservation District Supervisor, Havre  
Dale Marxer, Conservation District Supervisor, Great Falls  
Shirley Parrott, Conservation District Supervisor, Roundup  
John Pfaff, Grazing District Director, Miles City  
John Teigen, Conservation District Supervisor, Capitol  
Ole Ueland, Public at Large Representative, Silver Bow  
John Vanisko, Conservation District Supervisor, Deer Lodge

Advisory Members

Glen Loomis, Soil Conservation Service, Bozeman  
Charles Rust, Cooperative Extension Service, Bozeman  
John Drynan, Department of Health & Environmental Sciences,  
Helena  
Keith Kelly, Department of Agriculture, Helena  
Jim Flynn, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Helena  
Dennis Hemmer, Department of State Lands, Helena

## PREFACE

### A MESSAGE TO THE DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

You are important to the success of your conservation district. The more time and interest you give to the affairs of your district, the greater the accomplishments of the district will be.

The role of the conservation district supervisor is to be a leader in the community. As a public official, you represent the people of your district and state, and coordinate with other agencies in developing a total resource program to conserve and develop the natural resources of your district.

Conservation district business is vital. It demands your attention and leadership abilities. Your reward is the satisfaction of knowing that you are making a valuable contribution to the future welfare of your district, state, and nation.

# A GUIDE FOR MONTANA CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

May 1986

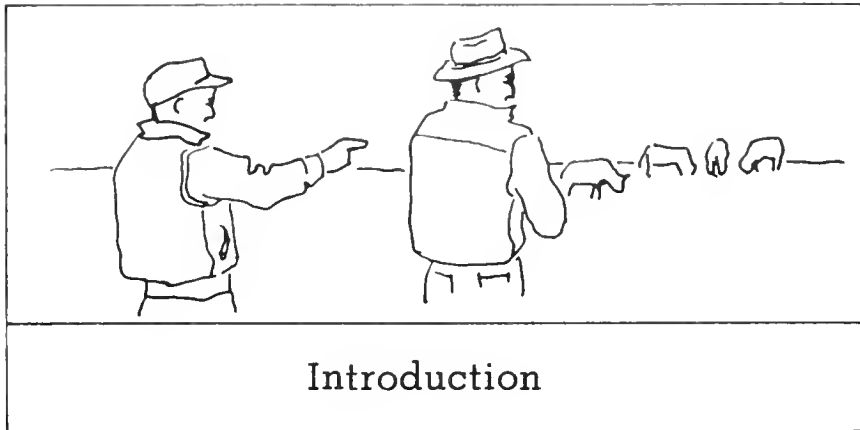
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Conservation Districts Division  
1520 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, Montana 59620

## Contents

	<u>Page</u>
PREFACE: A Message to the District Supervisors . . . . .	iv
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY OF THE CONSERVATION	
DISTRICT SUPERVISOR . . . . .	3
Responsibilities of the Board of Supervisors . . . . .	5
Duties of District Officers . . . . .	7
District Authority . . . . .	11
District's Yearly Budget . . . . .	12
ASSOCIATIONS, AGENCIES, AND OTHER SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE. . . . .	14
Conservation District Associations . . . . .	13
Cooperating Governmental Agencies . . . . .	15
Other Sources of Assistance to Districts . . . . .	17







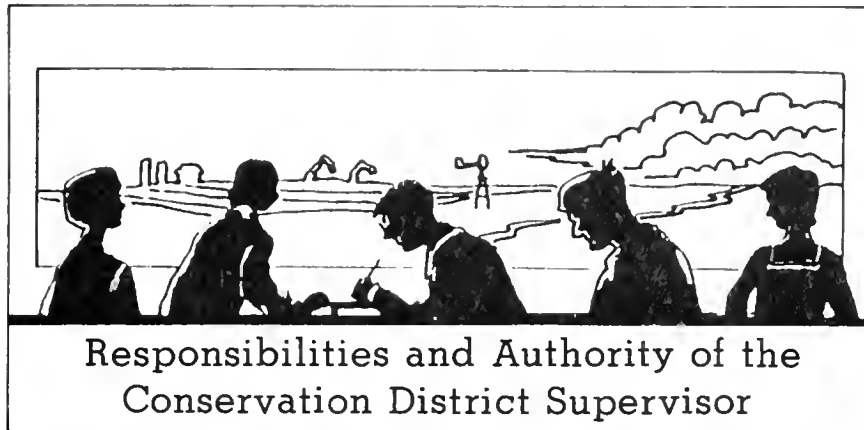
This publication explains the supervisor's duties and obligations, describes the role of the conservation district in resource management, lists cooperating agencies and their resources, and provides some guidelines and suggestions for the district employee. Practical information is given for conducting meetings, establishing plans for the district, and budgeting for conservation and development. We hope that this booklet, which was prepared by the Conservation Districts Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, will prove to be a valuable guide for conservation district supervisors and employees in the successful attainment of their districts' goals.

### Background

In Montana, conservation districts were organized and have operated under the Montana Conservation Districts Law (76-15-101 et seq. MCA), enacted in 1937. Established by a vote of the people in the district, they are legal subdivisions of the state and are public bodies, corporate and politic, with certificates of organization issued by the Secretary of State of Montana. Conservation districts are governed by boards of supervisors, five of whom are elected at the general election by residents of the district; two who may be appointed by the mayor and the city council of the cities and towns where all or portions of the cities and towns are a part of the district. If there are no incorporated cities or towns in the district, there may be seven elected supervisors. In addition, some districts appoint associate supervisors who act in an advisory capacity to the board, but do not have the authority to make or vote on motions before the board or to hold office.

The conservation district is operated and controlled by the people in the district. It provides a tool for the local development and initiation of programs to promote soil and water conservation. It cooperates with governmental agencies, groups, and individuals concerned with resource conservation and development, and encourages the multiple use of resources.

The effective care and management of resources contributes to the economic and social welfare of the community, and helps to achieve the operator's goals as well. The conservation district brings together the human and natural resources of a community, using self government to achieve orderly management of both soil and water, while maintaining environmental quality. Because many agencies of government are concerned with natural resource protection and development, the conservation district serves a vital purpose in securing their cooperation to carry out soil and water projects that the individual would find difficult or impossible to accomplish without such aid.



The chief obligation of CD supervisors is to provide continuing leadership in their districts. To do this, they maintain contact by attending regular meetings, usually once a month, with the other board members. Participation in all aspects of the district's operation is a necessary part of their duties. They must also establish support for conservation efforts with other community leaders, including:

- state and federal agency representatives, especially those concerned with natural resources
- leaders of agricultural and natural resource organizations
- local land-use planning groups, including city and city-county planning boards
- civic and business leaders
- school officials
- youth groups

#### RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The board of supervisors has administrative, fiscal, technical, public, and cooperative responsibilities, and are obligated to provide leadership in the district and to see that the district's interests are properly considered by outside agencies.

##### Administrative

One of the major responsibilities of the board is to furnish effective local leadership by wisely managing the district. Here are some guidelines for wise management.

1. Develop a working knowledge of the Conservation District Law 76-15-101 through 76-15-810 and the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act (SB 310) 75-7-101 through 75-7-124. A copy of these laws is provided by the Conservation Districts Division of DNRC.

2. Demonstrate by board actions that conservation districts are a unit of state government created by and for the local people.
3. Hold regular and special meetings to set priorities for conservation and resource development, to determine community needs, and to plan and carry out district work. District meetings are open to the public. The time and place for meetings should be advertised or posted to allow for public information.
4. Establish priorities for conservation education, technical assistance on the land, and loan or rental of equipment--and arrange to expand specific education opportunities through the Cooperative Extension Service, vocational teachers, and others.
5. Supervise all district employees. This includes setting wages, providing for workers compensation insurance, tax withholding, social security payments, and bonding. (Employees and supervisors who handle district funds are required by law to be bonded.)
6. Assign territory, committee duties, or jobs to individual members of the board. Appoint committees and delegate authority as necessary.
7. Develop a district-wide, comprehensive, long-range plan for the natural resources of the district that recognizes all interests of the district and is compatible with regional and state resource plans.
8. Develop, with assistance from cooperating agencies, an annual work plan designed to carry out the objectives of the long-range plan, listing by priority the objectives of the coming year, the methods proposed to attain those objectives, the individuals responsible, and the time frame in which the objectives are to be attained.
9. Review annually the district long-range plan and the memorandums of understanding the district has with agencies of government and others and make revisions as needed.
10. Publish a district annual report as required by state law and the memorandum of understanding with the United States Department of Agriculture. Copies of the annual report should be sent to the Conservation Districts Division, MACD, SCS, and to any other interested agencies, groups, or persons within the district.

#### Fiscal

One of the responsibilities of the board of supervisors is to assume the fiscal responsibilities of the district. Five specific duties are involved.

1. Develop and maintain sound business procedures through the use of adequate plans, records, and accounting and financial practices.
2. Manage all district funds, facilities, and equipment in a reasonable manner. CD law authorizes districts to withdraw from the county treasury any or all funds collected from the mill levy. The district is responsible for all transactions made, regardless of who actually makes the disbursements.
3. Find ways to raise funds to finance the district board's activities, including the payment of dues to the state and national associations if approved by the board.
4. Provide for surety bonds for all employees and officers who are entrusted with funds or property, as required by law.
5. Provide for an annual audit of the accounts of receipts and disbursements of the district. The audit, which is required by law, can be done by a contracted accountant or district personnel.

#### Technical

The technical responsibility of the board is to know the land and water conditions of the entire district and determine the practices required to conserve and develop its natural resources. The district board should work closely with the Soil Conservation Service in determining priorities for technical assistance to operators within the district, developing conservation plans and resource inventories, and sponsoring and conducting project demonstrations to show sound soil and water conservation practices.

#### Public

An important responsibility of the board is to keep the public informed of resource conservation activities and needs and the progress of conservation work in the district. Here are some suggestions for involving the public.

1. Plan to hold an annual public meeting with district cooperators. Invite other landowners of the district, representatives of civic groups, government, school officials, PTA, 4-H, FFA, and others. Use part of the meeting for viewing some outstanding conservation work.
2. Invite progressive young people to board meetings from time to time to train potential future supervisors and local leaders. Districts in other states have formed very successful youth boards.

3. Encourage bankers, newspaper editors, the county school superintendent, ministers, and other community leaders to become members of the district conservation team by inviting them to regular and special meetings of the district board. Explain to them the district's conservation program, the scientific approach to the solution of conservation problems, the increased value of land operated by conservation farmers, and the effect of better farm operations upon all business and educational activities of the community.
4. Observe "Soil Stewardship Week."
5. Sponsor local seminars or tours to show the public new conservation practices or areas of special interest or concern. The district may also consider sponsoring statewide events such as the Montana Youth Range Camp, Montana Range Days, the annual Montana Grazing Seminar, the Montana Weed Fair, or the annual Conservation Tillage Conference.

### Cooperative

Another of the responsibilities of the board of supervisors is to develop, both within the district and with outside entities, the help and cooperation needed to accomplish the district's purposes. This cooperation should be established with the district's cooperators, other districts and conservation district associations, and local, state, and federal agencies, especially the Conservation Districts Division of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

#### Cooperators

- Energetically develop leadership and group activity in conservation among the district's cooperators, and provide for follow-up. Encourage initiative.

#### Other Districts and Conservation District Associations

- Exchange ideas and experiences with other districts' boards and consider adopting any ideas that promise improvement in your district.
- Cooperate with other districts in multidistrict resource activities, such as comprehensive area planning, watershed development, and river basin programs.
- Support and participate in carrying out the programs of both the state and national conservation district associations.

## Local, State, and Federal Agencies

- Coordinate district programs with those of other agencies engaged in resource planning and development, such as planning commissions, economic development districts, councils of government, irrigation and drainage districts, state planning and development districts, city-county planning boards, regional planning commissions, city water and sewer districts, and flood control districts. Invite members of cooperating agencies to serve on various district committees.
- Continually strive to bring unanimity of action among local, state, and federal agencies and all others concerned with the conservation, use, or development of land, water, wildlife, and related resources, so that the district's objectives may be accomplished.
- Enter into memorandums of understanding or working agreements with as many agencies as needed.
- Work closely with and set priorities for the Soil Conservation Service.
- Formally invite your county extension agent to serve as an advisory member of your board. At the beginning of each year, ask the agent to help you plan, schedule, and assume active leadership for conservation meetings, youth activities, tours, and demonstrations during the year.

## Conservation Districts Division

- Keep close contact with the Conservation Districts Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation on all administrative matters.

## DUTIES OF DISTRICT OFFICERS

After conservation district supervisors have been elected by the voters or appointed by the towns, they are responsible for organizing themselves into a functioning board. Each district must select three officers: chairman, vice chairman, and secretary. Their duties follow.

### Chairman

1. Preside at all meetings. The following suggestions are offered for setting agendas and conducting meetings.

### Agenda

- a. Have an agenda for each meeting and provide a copy to each person attending.

- b. Follow an order of business; dispose of each item listed before proceeding to the next item.
- c. Check calendar of work (annual plan) to make sure all activities are being carried out.
- d. Delegate responsibilities to other board members.

#### Order of Business

- a. Call to order
  - b. Read or dispose of minutes of last meeting
  - c. Financial report
  - d. Correspondence
  - e. Committee reports (standing or special)
  - f. Agency reports
  - g. Unfinished business
  - h. New business
  - i. Announcements
  - j. Adjournment
- 2. Call special meetings when necessary.
  - 3. Meet with the secretary and district conservationist prior to the scheduled meeting and work out a tentative agenda to be sent to each board member with notification of the meeting.
  - 4. See that invitations are extended to all individuals who should attend the meeting.
  - 5. Start the meetings promptly at the specified time.
  - 6. Encourage regular attendance.
  - 7. Encourage all supervisors to take part in the discussion and action.
  - 8. Avoid expressing personal opinion too soon in any discussion.
  - 9. Vote on all motions brought before the board as an elected official--not just in tie-breaking situations.



10. Dispose of each topic properly after adequate discussion.
11. Use the long-range goals of the district and the district annual plan of operations as the basic activity guides.
12. Recognize visitors and other individuals present at board meetings, and encourage their participation.
13. Appoint committees and delegate responsibility.
14. Accept the leadership to make the conservation district an action group and not a rubber stamp for cooperating agencies.
15. Close meeting promptly after all business has been completed.

#### Vice Chairman

1. Assume the duties of the chairman in his or her absence.
2. Assist in program organization and implementation.
3. Direct activities of the committees as needed.
4. Be familiar enough with the district program to work closely with the chairman and fill in when necessary.

#### Secretary

1. Make a complete record of all proceedings and supply a copy to the Conservation Districts Division, MACD, and other interested persons and agencies.
  - a. Show name of group that is meeting, place and date of meeting, and indicate whether it is a regular or special meeting.
  - b. Name the presiding officer.
  - c. Give full names of those present and what organization they represent.
    1. board members present
    2. board members absent, and if they are excused
    3. others present--show title and organization

- d. Include the treasurer's or financial report.
  - 1. existing balance
  - 2. income
    - a. money received since last meeting
    - b. money due the district
  - 3. disbursements
    - a. disbursements made since last meeting
    - b. list bills to pay
  - 4. authorization to pay bills
- e. Include each motion written in full. It should be read aloud before action is taken. Give proper name of person making motion and person seconding motion, and show whether motion was adopted or rejected. (Motions that are withdrawn should not be recorded.)
- f. Show any points of order or appeal, whether sustained or not.
- g. Show complete record of all actions taken by the board. Insist that action be completed on each item of business so that a record can be made of what was done.
- h. Include a description of each report given. Ask for written reports if necessary.
- i. Indicate any changes in officers, supervisors, or employees.

Note: The chairman and secretary should sign the minutes. The board should not approve minutes that are not detailed enough to provide a true and accurate accounting of all business transacted at that meeting.

Minutes of meetings should be worked into final form as soon as possible after the meeting. Copies of the minutes should be sent to:

- Administrator, Conservation Districts Division
- Executive Vice President, Montana Association of Conservation Districts
- Area directors and Resource Conservation Advisory Council members representing your area
- Area conservationist and state conservationist, Soil Conservation Service

2. Initiate correspondence on behalf of the board as necessary.
3. Inform the chairman of any business that should come before the board.

#### DISTRICT AUTHORITY

The previous pages have listed the responsibilities of the board of supervisors and of the district officers. Another responsibility of the conservation district supervisors is to exercise the authority and fulfill the obligations given each district by the Montana Conservation Districts Law. That law gives conservation districts the authority to:

1. Conduct surveys, investigations, or research on conservation-related activities in cooperation with the state or federal agencies.
2. Conduct, with landowner consent, projects for soil, vegetation, and water resource conservation within the district.
3. Develop comprehensive plans for the conservation of natural resources.
4. Acquire property, real or personal, for district use.
5. Enter into agreements or contracts and cooperate with other agencies to carry on and demonstrate conservation programs.
6. Sue and be sued in the name of the district.
7. Adopt land use regulations.

The Montana Conservation District Law gives conservation districts limited legal authority; also, as might be expected, this law and other state laws require some responsibility. Specifically, the law requires the districts to:

1. Administer the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act (SB 310) by monitoring activities regulated by the Act, and if necessary, file charges and prosecute violators.
2. Carry out the provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act (208), in cooperation with the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, and the Environmental Protection Agency.
3. Assist in carrying out the provisions of the Resource Conservation Act, in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service.

4. If the district has elected to be involved, assist landowners and recreationists under the provisions of the Stream Access Law (HB 265).

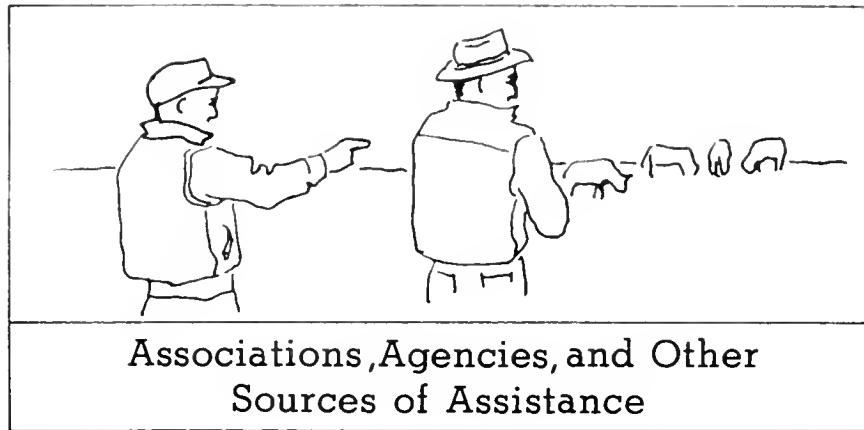
Besides these regulatory obligations, the law also gives conservation districts fiscal obligations--specifically, the obligation (and authority) to:

1. Borrow money, incur indebtedness, issue bonds, and retire indebtedness against the district.
2. Budget and levy taxes to pay district obligations.
3. Receive federal revenue sharing funds and other state or federal funds.
4. Employ help as required.
5. Make seed, equipment, or other materials available to operators to assist them in carrying out conservation matters.

#### DISTRICT'S YEARLY BUDGET

The operation of your district requires careful management of finances. In addition to technical assistance available from cooperating agencies, money is needed to carry out annual and long-range plans.

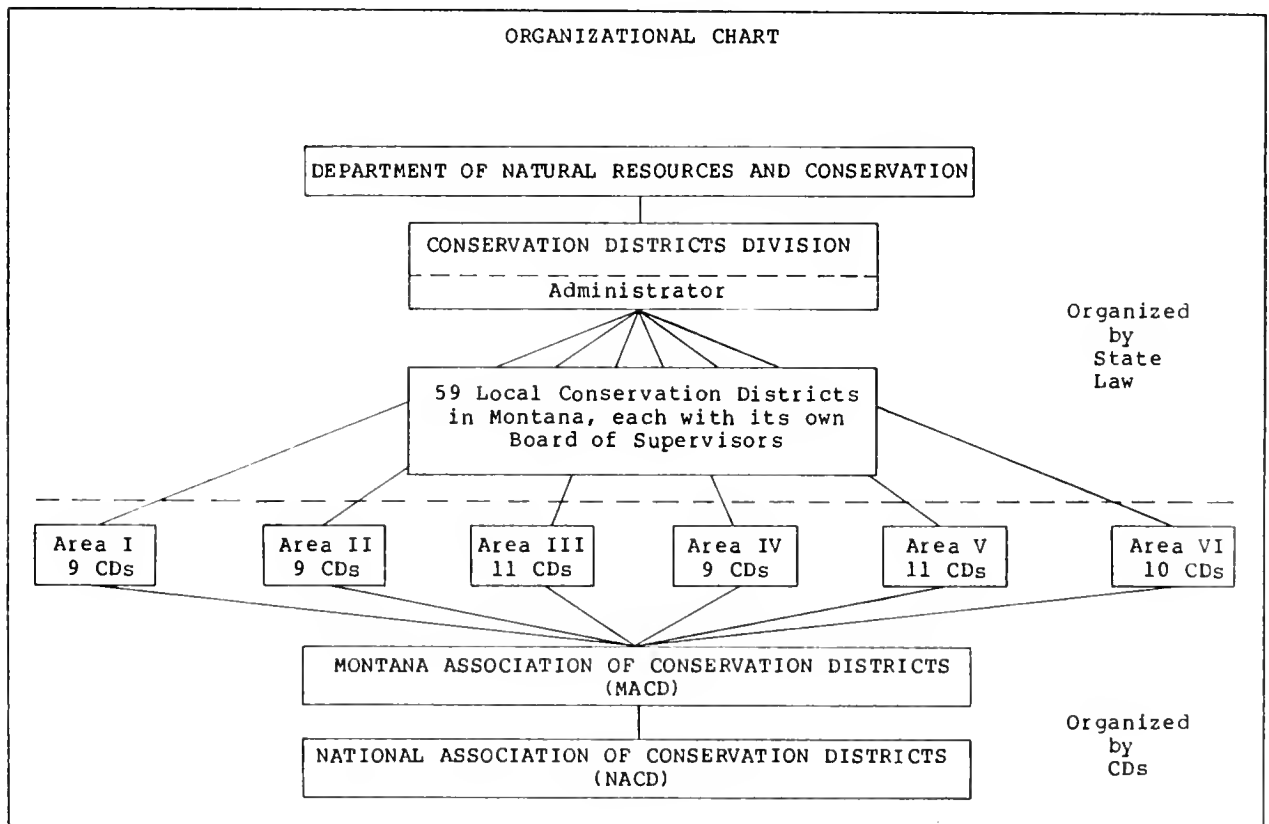
Circumstances vary in the financial affairs of districts. Districts have the authority to request the county commissioners to levy a tax, not to exceed 1.5 mills, on all real property within the district. Up to 3 mills may also be levied for special projects within limited areas. In addition, funds are often available from state and federal sources. These funds are granted for specific purposes and must be accounted for. Districts can charge fees for district services or use of equipment. All funds received and expended by the district should be accounted for in an annual audit. If necessary, the district may also levy an additional tax, above the 1.5 mills, to cover expenditures for insurance needed by the district.



The organizational chart on this page shows the relationship of the conservation districts to the state and national conservation district associations and to the Conservation Districts Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

### CONSERVATION DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

All conservation districts should maintain active membership in the state and national organizations that have the responsibility to represent them. These private, non-profit organizations are empowered to lobby for their members' interests, to seek financial assistance, and to obtain technical aid.



### Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)

Supervisors of every dues-paying district in the state are voting members of the state association, which meets annually. All district supervisors are urged to attend the meetings as a public duty. Currently there are 59 districts in the state association, which is divided into six areas. Members in each of these areas normally meet at least once each year, a month before the state convention. Except for the annual meeting, affairs of the association are conducted principally by the board of directors and committee chairman appointed by the president. Supervisors are urged to serve on the committee of their choice. Conservation district supervisors are kept informed of association activities by the executive vice president's monthly report to the district.

### National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)

NACD is made up of all the supervisors in the nation, about 17,000 in all. There are over 3,000 member districts, covering over 90 percent of the nation's land and water. NACD is divided into seven regions. Montana is part of the Northern Plains Region (North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, and Montana).

Each area holds one meeting a year. The Northern Plains Region usually meets in the summer. NACD holds one national convention each year, the first week in February. NACD officers consist of president, vice president, treasurer, seven area vice presidents, and twenty-one directors (three from each region).

The current NACD officers are:

President: Clarence Durban, 15558 Robinson Road,  
Plain City, OH 43069

Vice President: Robert Wetherbee, Route 1, Box 320,  
Fairmount, ND 58030

Executive Vice President: Vacant, 1025 Vermont Avenue NW,  
Washington, DC 20005

NACD Western Program Advisor: Robert E. Raschke, Suite 113,  
9150 Jewel, Lakewood, CO 80226

Regional Directors: John Vanisko, 1311 Bowman Road,  
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

Ray Reich, Route 2, Box 61,  
Richardton, ND 58652

Robert Gab, Route 2, Box 121,  
Eureka, SD 57437

The NACD home office is at 1025 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005. The NACD Service Department mailing address is Box 855, League City, TX 77573. David Stewart is the current manager. District newsletters and booklets can be printed here. Metal signs of all types and other conservation supplies and equipment are also available.

#### COOPERATING GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

The success of district programs depends on cooperation. The district team is made up of many agencies, organizations, groups, and individuals. Without the cooperation and assistance of a number of groups, the district program would be ineffective. Memorandums of understanding are in effect between districts in Montana and the following governmental agencies:

##### United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service  
Soil Conservation Service  
U.S. Forest Service

##### United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Bureau of Land Management  
Bureau of Reclamation

##### United States Army Corps of Engineers

##### State of Montana

Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Department of Health and Environmental Sciences  
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Department of State Lands  
Montana State University, Cooperative Extension Service

Three Montana governmental entities in particular advise conservation districts. One is the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, through its Conservation Districts Division. Another is the Resource Conservation Advisory Council, set up expressly to advise the governor, state agencies, and conservation districts on matters of conservation. The third is the Board of Natural Resources and Conservation, which has many other responsibilities as well.

##### Conservation Districts Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

The Conservation Districts Division was established in accordance with the Executive Reorganization Act, and has the responsibility

of assisting with administrative matters and program planning in the 59 districts of the state.

The Conservation Districts Division, together with the Department of State Lands and boards of county commissioners, acts in an administrative capacity in the formation and operation of conservation districts. It may also provide advice on uniform land use planning consistent with the goals of conservation districts.

The principal obligations of the Division include maintaining cooperative efforts between the districts and various agencies, helping with program planning, and disseminating information. The Division offers advice and consultation in coordinating activities between districts and facilitates exchange of ideas and information. Within budget limitations, it helps with district activities and assists in the formation of new districts in areas where they are needed. The Division also screens and accepts applications for Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention projects, and Resource Conservation and Development projects (RC&D). The Division also administers several grant programs available to conservation districts, including the HB 223 CD project grant program, the CD administrative grant program, the riparian management grant program, and the water reservation grant program.

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has delegated to the Conservation Districts Division the administration of the Rangeland Resource Program. The Grass Conservation Act, Montana Conservation Districts Law, and the Montana Rangeland Resource Act mandate the maintenance and enhancement of the rangeland resources of the state.

In each conservation district, a range leader is appointed by the board. It is the responsibility of the range leader and the range committee to manage any rangeland program activities in the district with technical and financial support from the district.

#### Board of Natural Resources and Conservation

A seven-member Board of Natural Resources and Conservation is appointed by the governor as required by law. This board makes decisions on the initial organization of conservation districts and state cooperative grazing districts and their dissolution. The board also reviews requests for inclusion of additional lands and towns to the districts and reviews requests for water reservations.

#### Resource Conservation Advisory Council

The Executive Reorganization Act permits the governor to appoint advisory councils. Governor Schwinden has appointed a Resource



Conservation Advisory Council consisting of five conservation district supervisors, one grazing district director, and one person representing the public at large, as voting members. Advisory members are the State Conservationist, SCS; the Vice President, Cooperative Extension Service, MSU; the Director, State Department of Agriculture; the Director, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; the Director, Department of Health and Environmental Sciences; and the Commissioner, Department of State Lands. The council advises the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation on conservation district matters.

#### Rangeland Resource Executive Committee

The governor has also appointed the Rangeland Resource Executive Committee consisting of six ranchers who advise the Department on matters affecting the Montana Rangeland Resource Program. The Committee is assisted by advisory members from the Soil Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, Department of State Lands, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Cooperative Extension Service, the Association of State Grazing Districts, and the Association of Conservation Districts.

#### OTHER SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE TO DISTRICTS

Several governmental agencies provide financial and technical assistance to conservation districts. Specialized assistance is available from numerous state and federal agencies. Educational and informational aid is offered in both the public and private sectors.

#### Financial Assistance

##### Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

- Conservation District Administrative Grant Program
- HB 223 Grant Program
- Rangeland Improvement Loan Program
- Renewable Resource Development Program
- Riparian Management Program
- Streambank Reclamation Program
- Water Development Program
- Water Reservation Grant Program

##### Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

- Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP)

##### Soil Conservation Service

- Great Plains Conservation Program (GPCP)
- Resource Conservation Act (RCA)
- Rural Conservation and Development (RC&D)
- Section 16 Funding, Rural Clean Water Program (RCWP) (208)
- Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (PL-566)

Farmers Home Administration  
Production Credit Association  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Local Banks

Contributions

Technical Assistance

Agricultural Experiment Station	U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Environmental Protection Agency	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Montana University System	U.S. Forest Service
Soil Conservation Service	Water Resources Division, DNRC

Cooperative Extension Service  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences  
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Legal Assistance

Conservation Districts Division, DNRC  
County Attorney

Specialized Assistance

Attorney General's Office  
Commercial Interests  
Development Groups  
Local Government Bodies  
Montana Department of Community Affairs  
Montana Department of Highways  
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Montana Department of State Lands  
Montana University System  
Office of Commerce and Small Business Development,  
Governor's Office  
Planning and Development Districts

Education and Information

Churches  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Farm and Ranch Organizations  
News Media  
Public Schools  
Vocational and Occupational Services Department, Office of  
the Superintendent of Public Instruction



**MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION**

**1520 EAST SIXTH AVENUE  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620  
444 6667**

1000 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$850.00, which includes \$800.00 for printing and \$50.00 for distribution.